[26th November 1928

Opening of a dispensary at Attur, Salem district.

* 634 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) why no provision has hitherto been made either by the Government or the Local Fund authorities for a hospital or dispensary in the taluk of Attur, Salem district;

(b) why there has been no Lady Medical Officer attached to any of the hospitals and dispensaries maintained by Government or by the local and municipal authorities in the district of Salem as a whole; and

(c) why no provision has been made hitherto for affording medical treatment and attendance to the women, and especially gosha ladies and children in Salem town, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tiruchengodu, Namakkal, Harur, Hosur, Omalur, Yercaud, Denkerikota, Palakadi, Sankari, Kaveripatnam, Sendamangalam and such other centres in the Salem district which are largely populated by the Muslim community?

A.—(a) There is a Government hospital at Attur.

(b) Two lady medical officers are employed in the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Salem. The question of employing lady medical officers in other Government institutions is under consideration. As regards the appointment of lady doctors in medical institutions maintained by local bodies, it is for the local bodies themselves to take the initiative.

(c) There are medical institutions in all the stations mentioned in the question and they are open to all communities. The Government will be glad to consider any suggestions for increasing the existing provision.

Eligibility of Licensed Indian Medical Graduates for appointment as Medical practitioners.

* 635 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Licenced Indian Medical Graduates are qualified for appointment as medical practitioners;

(b) if they are, whether the Government propose to remove the restriction that the medical practitioners to be appointed for rural dispensaries by local boards should be only licensed medical practitioners; and

(c) whether the Government propose to give liberty to local boards to appoint qualified medical practitioners to rural dispensaries in consultation with the adviser to the Government on Indian Medicine, and not necessarily with that of the District Medical Officers who are allopathic doctors?

A.—(a) Yes, in institutions where Indian systems of medicine are practised.

(b) The matter is already engaging the attention of the Government.

(c) This question will arise only when that referred to in clause (b) has been decided.

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Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know when this will be settled and how long it has been under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" This question has been under the consideration of the Government since the report of the Principal of the School of Indian Medicine was received. I think orders will be passed soon. I am not able to say exactly when it will be done."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know when the report of the Principal was received ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The report reached us about three or four months ago."

Provision of more accommodation in the Mental Hospitals at Waltair, Madras and Calicut.

* 636 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide more accommodation in the three Mental Hospitals at Waltair, Madras and Calicut respectively and, if so, to what extent and at what cost ;

(b) the progress made in the reorganization of the said hospitals so as to convert them into hospitals for scientific treatment of mental disorders ;

(c) the arrangements made for the separation of the acute, chronic, epileptic and recovering cases in these hospitals and the provision of padded cells for violent cases ;

(d) the reasons why no progress has been made in providing the hospital at Madras with an improved drainage system though its investigation was sanctioned so long ago as 1925 ;

(e) the daily average strength of European and Indian patients, the number of European and Indian patients for whom there is provision and the highest number of European and Indian patients accommodated on any one day respectively in the Madras Mental Hospital ; and

(f) why provision is made in the Madras hospital at 60 square feet per European patient as against 45 or 50 square feet for Indian patients ?

A.—(a) The Government have sanctioned as the first instalment of a scheme for improving and extending the accommodation in the Madras Mental Hospital the construction of a new enclosure for 100 female patients at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,13,400. The work has been started. Additional buildings to accommodate 30 patients have been sanctioned for the Calicut Mental Hospital at an approximate cost of Rs. 51,075. Proposals for further improvements and additions to this institution and for the extension of the Waltair Mental Hospital are under consideration.

(b) The nursing staff of the Mental Hospitals has been reorganized. The reorganization of the medical staff is under consideration. A selected assistant surgeon has been deputed to Europe and America for special training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and mental deficiency. The course of clinical studies in mental diseases in Medical Colleges and schools has been enlarged and improved. Proposals for